REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New Claims 16-25 find support in original Claims 1-12. As sulfonium salts are not "quaternary" the specification has been corrected, as have the claims. No new matter has been entered.

The present invention method for producing chemiluminescence requires the use of a certain chemiluminescence enhancer not described in the prior art. As pointed out in new Claim 16, this chemiluminescence enhancer is a water soluble macromolecular quaternary ammonium salt, sulfonium salt, or phosphonium salt which has been treated with an oxidizing agent or a reducing agent. As explained at specification page 12 ff, this treatment provides the enhancer with special benefits that lead, ultimately, to a different and better method for producing chemiluminescence in a solid phase immunoassay.

These benefits are demonstrated, for example, in Table 1 at specification page 14:

Table 1

	Untreated TBQ	Treated TBQ			
		Na sulfite	Na hypochlorite	Na metaperiodate	Ammonium persulfate
Count	1188601	1795546	1900953	1882699	1887294
	1144091	1803082	1893218	1880734	1853619
	1159564	1760605	1859213	1864943	1855904
	1100897	1774889	1881518	1859709	1852409
	1164963	1768074	1864585	1845497	1837743
Average	1151623	1780439	1879897	1866716	1857394
CV	2.8%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%

where an enhancer according to the invention (TBQ; see specification page 6, lines 22-23) has been used in untreated form and, according to the invention, in treated form after treatment with several different reagents having an oxidation or reduction property. As shown in the results presented above in Table 1 (see specification page 14), compared to untreated TBQ, in the treated TBQ group of the invention under all treatment conditions

signal was increased substantially and the repeatability (CV value) was significantly improved. Further examples demonstrating the benefits of the invention appear in the specification.

None of Akhavan-Tafti, Voyta, Bronstein, Okada, or Ho disclose or suggest the use of a chemiluminescence enhancer as claimed herein. In this regard, it is also the case that these references fail to disclose or appreciate the significant advantages obtained when a chemiluminescence enhancer as presently claimed, which has been treated with an oxidizing agent or a reducing agent, is used in a method of producing chemiluminescence in a solid phase immunoassay. Review of the cited references shows no such treatment of a chemiluminescence enhancer, nor any suggestion of such treatment.

Accordingly, and because the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed method and the benefits provided thereby, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and the passage of this case to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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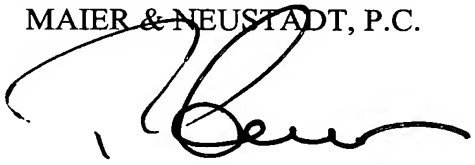

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